A Startling Tidbit from a UFO Hunter

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Eric Davis, an astrophysicist and To The Stars adviser, was a storied character in UFO lore. He had spent more than 20 years investigating ideas for the military most would consider unfathomable, including teleportation, antigravity devices and the possibility of interstellar space travel using wormholes.

For years, Davis, now 64, was part of a small group of defense experts who had claimed to know about a top-secret program at Lockheed's Skunk Works to hoard extraterrestrial technology that might one day be converted into fearsome weapons. Their claims gained credence in part because of the siloed nature of the U.S. national security establishment, which can make it almost impossible even for insiders to determine the truth of some of the country's most secret programs.

Davis told Sean Kirkpatrick's team at the Defense Department that he knew about both a U.S. alien program and a similar one by Moscow—and that Central Intelligence Agency officials in the late 2000s had asked him to look into a crashed UFO decades earlier in Russia. In Davis's telling, Moscow was said to be reverse-engineering a laser system harvested from the vessel.

The CIA told Kirkpatrick's team that it had no record of Davis being tasked with any such assignment. But investigators came across another startling tidbit: The information Davis had was of a real, covert Russian laser program.

Kirkpatrick's team determined the UFO part of the story was likely Russian misinformation designed to throw America off the trail— not unlike the Air Force's own myths about Area 51.